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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

**** Correspondents are requested to be as brief as possible. The writer's name is in all cases required as proof of good faith.**

On request in advance, one hundred copies of the number containing his communication will be furnished free to any correspondent.

The editor will be glad to publish any queries consonant with the character of the journal.

The Color Question.

A FEW weeks ago (*Science*, March 25) Mr. Milton Bradley wrote to you on this subject, which unfortunately is still in an unsatisfactory state, notwithstanding the researches of Helmholtz and Maxwell. Mr. Bradley is, do doubt, quite right in treating, for the purposes of his system, all the colors of the spectrum as of equal value, but it is by no means as clear as he supposes that the three colors, red, green, and violet, are entitled to be considered primaries in preference to red, yellow, and blue, if any colors are to be thus treated. The fact that Maxwell found the cross-section of a cone of color to be approximately triangular with red, green, and violet at the three corners, proves little as to the real relation between the various colors. It is very easy by means of a prism so to condense a spectrum as that only red, green, and violet shall be visible, and my impression is that some such explanation will be found of Maxwell's supposed elementary green at least. I read with suspicion such statements as that most natural yellows and blues when analyzed by a prism show a large quantity of green

in their composition, and that yellow can be produced by mingling green and violet. In the former case the green is due probably to an overlapping of the yellow and the blue, notwithstanding the belief, which is erroneous, that the yellow and blue of the prism will not produce green. Anyone on looking through a prism at different objects can easily devise a mode of causing two spectra to overlap, and thus convince himself that the blue and yellow do actually thereby give rise to green. He can, moreover, make the red and violet rays overlap, and thus form shades of purple. Such being the case, green, although sometimes in overlapping spectra observed by looking through the prism it appears to obliterate the blue, is no more entitled to be called a primary color than purple itself. For all practical purposes all the colors should be regarded as primary, the question of their actual relation being left to be settled by further investigation.

C. STANILAND WAKE.

349 North Clark Street, Chicago, Ill.

Family Types.

CAN I ask one or two questions about Mr. Williams's note in the issue of April 15? Does the mother in placental mammals tend to assimilate in respect to blood to the father? Does the result of a study for twenty-five years of one family offer more than the slightest evidence on the point in question? Does the mother frequently acquire diseases belonging to the father indirectly through the child she is carrying? Does each child in a family

CALENDAR OF SOCIETIES.]

Women's Anthropological Society of America, Washington.

April 30.—Miss Annie T. Smith, Report of the Committee on the Investigation of Directive Forces in Society; Mrs. York, Medical Inspection of Schools; Miss Sickles, The Ghost Dance.

Biological Society, Washington.

April 30.—The principal paper of the evening was: The Distribution of Land, Water, and Ice on this Continent in Later Geological Periods, by Professor W. J. McGee; Communications: Erwin F. Smith, The Relation of Plants to the Soil; Charles Hallock, Where Salt-Water Fishes Hide; Results of Deep-Water Seining.

Society of Natural History, Boston.

May 4.—J. S. Kingsley, Notes on the Anatomy of Amphiuma.

Publications Received at Editor's Office.

- BAUSCH, EDWARD. Manipulation of the Microscope. Rochester, Bausch and Lomb Optical Co. 16°. 128 p. Ill.
- CATHCART GEORGE R. Literary Reader; A Manual of English Literature. New York, American Book Co. 12°. 560 p. \$1.15.
- CHAPMAN, C. H. An Elementary Course in Theory of Equations. New York, John Wiley & Sons. 12°. 98 p. \$1.50.
- CHURCH, IRVING P. Notes and Examples in Mechanics. New York, John Wiley & Sons. 8°. 144 p., plates. \$2.
- GORMAN, S. The Discoboli. Cambridge, Museum Comp. Zool. 4°, paper. 96 p., plates.
- GREELY, A. W. Irrigation and Water Storage in the Arid Regions. Report to the Sec. of War. Washington, Government. 4°, paper. 356 p. Maps.
- HURST, G. H. Silk Dyeing, Printing and Finishing. With numerous colored patterns. New York, Macmillan & Co. 16°. 184 p. \$2.
- LANDAUER, J. Blowpipe Analysis. Trans. by James Taylor. 2d ed. New York, Macmillan & Co. 16°. 190 p. \$1.10.
- MORRIS, R. ANNA. Physical Education in the Public Schools. New York, American Book Co. 8°. 192 p. \$1.

Business Department.

The Providence and Stonington Steamship Company's new steel steamer New Hampshire made a record for phenomenal speed on her trial trip at Wilmington, Del., on April 21, 1892. Loaded with 600 tons dead weight, she made time over the measured mile, two minutes fifty-nine seconds, an average of over twenty miles per hour. The New Hampshire is a sister ship to the Maine, recently built at Wilmington, for the Providence and Stonington Steamship Company, which has also proven a great success, both as a fast sailer and a most comfortable and luxurious boat for passengers.

Exchanges.

[Free of charge to all, if of satisfactory character. Address N. D. C. Hodges, 874 Broadway, New York.]

For sale or exchange, Das Ausland, 10 vols., 1832 to 1891, including 6 vols. bound, 4 in numbers. Wheeler Survey, vol. 1. Geog. Report; also vol. 6. Botany; Production of gold and silver in the United States, 1830, '1, '2, '3, '5; Selfridge Isthmus of Darien. Will sell at very low prices. J. F. James, 1443 Corcoran St., Washington, D. C.

For exchange.—A fine thirteen-keyed flute in leather covered case, for a photograph camera suitable for making lantern slides. Flute cost \$27, and is nearly new. U. O. COX, Mankato, Minn.

To exchange; Experiment Station bulletins and reports for bulletins and reports not in my file. I will send list of what I have for exchange. P. H. ROLFS, Lake City, Florida.

Finished specimens of all colors of Vermont marble for fine artistic purposes. Will be given only for valuable specimens because of the cost of polishing. GEO. W. PERRY, State Geologist, Rutland, Vt.

For exchange.—Three copies of "American State Papers Bearing on Sunday Legislation," 1891, \$2.50, new and unused, for "The Sabbath," by Harmon Kingsbury, 1840; "The Sabbath," by A. A. Phelps, 1842; "History of the Institution of the Sabbath Day, Its Uses and Abuses," by W. L. Fisher, 1859; "Humorous Phases of the Law," by Irving Browne; or other works amounting to value of books exchanged, on the question of governmental legislation in reference to religion, personal liberty, etc. If preferred, I will sell "American State Papers," and buy other books on the subject. WILLIAM ADDISON BLAKELY, Chicago, Ill.

For Sale or Exchange for books a complete private chemical laboratory outfit. Includes large Becker balance (200g. to 1-romg.), platinum dishes and crucibles, agate motors, glass-blowing apparatus, etc. For sale in part or whole. Also complete file of *Scientific Journal*, 1862-1885 (62-71 bound); Smithsonian Reports, 1854-1883; U. S. Coast Survey, 1854-1869. Full particulars to enquirers. F. GARDINER, JR., Pomfret, Conn.

Wants.

Any person seeking a position for which he is qualified by his scientific attainments, or any person seeking some one to fill a position of this character, be it that of a teacher of science, chemist, draughtsman, or what not, may have the 'Want' inserted under this head FREE OF COST, if he satisfies the publisher of the suitable character of his application. Any person seeking information on any scientific question, the address of any scientific man, or who can in any way use this column for a purpose consonant with the nature of the paper, is cordially invited to do so.

TRANSLATOR wanted to read German architectural works at sight (no writing). One familiar with technical terms desired. Address "A," Box 149, New York Post Office.

WANTED.—A position in a manufacturing establishment by a manufacturing Chemist of inventive ability. Address M. W. B., care of *Science*, 874 Broadway, N. Y.

WANTED.—Books on Anatomy and Hypnotism. Will pay cash or give similar books in exchange. Also want medical battery and photo outfit. DR. ANDERSON, 182 State street, Chicago, Ill.

WANTED.—A college graduate with some normal training, to teach the sciences, at \$1,800 per year, in a Southern college. A Baptist or a Methodist preferred. Must also be a first-class Latin scholar. A. H. Beals, Box K, Milledgeville, Ga.

A PROFESSORSHIP in Chemistry is wanted by one who has had five years' experience in that capacity. Would prefer to give instruction by lectures and experiments rather than by text-book methods. Would like a position in a college or university where there is a good student laboratory. Special points of strength claimed are: (1) Thorough control of a class and good order during lectures and recitations. (2) Accuracy in experimenting with chemicals and skill in the manipulation of chemical apparatus. The permission of several distinguished educators has been given to refer to them if required. Would not care to accept a position paying less than \$1,500. Address B. E., care of *Science*, 874 Broadway, New York.

ADDRESS WANTED.—Will some one please send the address of the Secretary of the American Philological Society. Also that of Herbert Spencer. "ADDISON," Room 84, 164 Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

ADDRESSES of Old Book Dealers wanted.—Wishing to obtain a number of old books out of print, I very much desire the addresses or catalogues of rare second-hand book dealers. If there is a directory or list of such dealers I should like to obtain possession of one. W. A. BLAKELY, Chicago, Ill.

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